

**Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, May 1, 1807, The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.**

**TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE J. MSS. (JAMES MADISON.)**

Monticello, May 1, 07.

Dear Sir, —I return you Monroe's, Armstrong's, Harris's, & Anderson's letters, & add a letter & act from Gov. McKean, to be filed in your office. The proposition for separating the western country, mentioned by Armstrong to have been made at Paris, is important. But what is the declaration he speaks of? for none accompanies his letter, unless he means Harry Grant's proposition. I wish our Ministers at Paris, London, & Madrid, could find out Burr's propositions & agents there. I know few of the characters of the new British administration. The few I know are true Pittires, & anti-American. From them we have nothing to hope, but that they will readily let us back out. Whether they can hold their places will depend on the question whether the Irish propositions be popular or unpopular in England. Dr. Sibley, in a letter to Gen. Dearborne, corrects an error of fact in my message to Congress of December. He says the Spaniards never had a single soldier at Bayou Pierre till Apr. 1805. Consequently it was not a keeping, but a taking of a military possession of that post. I thine Gen. Dearborne would do well to desire Sibley to send us affidavits of that fact.

Our weather continues extremely seasonable, & favorable for vegetation. I salute you with sincere affection.

P.S. The pamphlet & papers shall be returned by next post.